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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Geographic Research

DATE: 12 May 1959

FROM : Chief, Geography Division

SUBJECT: Discussion of Olsztyn Region (East Prussia) Project with DRS
State as Requested

1. The DRS, State, officer (Mr. Lewins) responsible for Poland was shown an outline of the proposed study and discussed it in some detail with [REDACTED] on 11 May 1959. Mr. Lewins spoke approvingly of the project and indicated that, if the outline can be developed in fair detail, the study will make a substantial contribution to knowledge of the area. He indicated a willingness to assist in preparation where possible by answering questions, reviewing drafts, making source materials available, etc. On behalf of his own office, Mr. Lewins expressed particular interest in the sections on population, economy, delimitation of Polish-Soviet territorial waters, the German claim, and outlook for the future of the area. 25X1A9a

Is there a reason for doing the study?

2. In the course of the discussion, Mr. Lewins made several points that pertain directly and indirectly to the question of the relative importance of East Prussia in German territorial delimitation:

a. Polish-administered East Prussia is not important in the sense that all or a portion of it is likely to be returned to Germany in the near future, but is important as an integral part of the whole German settlement puzzle, i.e., East Prussia will come up for consideration in any attempt to balance the books.

b. Exactly how hot an issue East Prussia will become cannot be predicted; will depend on relative strength and policy aims of USSR, Germany, and Poland at the time the question comes to a head.

c. U. S. Negotiators will need to know what kind of pressure to use and where to apply it. This will require, inter alia, on evaluation of Polish-administered East Prussia and comparisons between it and the former German territories between old Poland and the Oder-Niesse line.

3. Mr. Lewins is also very interested in the Polish capital investment in the Olsztyn region compared to the Western territories and the rest of Poland. We will request help from the ERA on this.

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